

that he was dying, he would have frozen to death. This hunger here is assigned of life. So it is with the spiritual warnings. This hunger here is assigned of life. Second, it is the constitution of our nature. We cannot

go deeper than nature. We cannot go behind or beyond it, but it is what we have been born with. It is the normal, natural thing, you see, that comes into a heart of a man. We do not ask about immortality of the soul. There is something found in your heart about that. You ~~must~~ do not ask about lying and theft and murder. There is something that desires the ~~concealment~~

concealment of sins. You do not ask about the necessity of altars and temples because there is a normal natural hunger We hunger because we are physical. Our physical nature our make up and not one of us is self-contained or independent

of the world that is deep within us this desire and there is the vision which is natural and normal to cause us to seek God as our original dwelling. We ~~discovered that~~ know that it is abnormal for one not to hunger for bread. A sick man or an upset man, he does not crave bread. And so we know that when a man is constituted this way, as David talked about a deer thirsting and panting for water

from a brook, so his souls Or as Isaiah who said, With my soul have I desired Thee in the night, you see. Ye with my spirit within me will I

HUNGER BRINGS HAPPINESS

Matthew 5:6

INTRODUCTION: Here Jesus turns one of the elemental human instincts to spiritual use. There is in all men hunger for food. There is also in all men hunger for love and for God.

It is a passionate hunger and thirst for goodness and for holiness. This deals with the active elements in a man's life. The multitude on this hot day as they were gathered together and there hungers were very deep but none of their needs were more deep-seated than their spiritual longings and yearnings in their hearts.

A man may get social freedom but is his thirst for fellowship with God remains unquenched he will still behave like an animal. Witness the prosperity of the western civilization of this moment we have everything machinery age could provide and yet there is boredom and all time high of all of these things and yet the morals continue to decline.

I read the story of a little boy who was being interviewed in an orphanage for adoption. This couple could give him many things. They told in glowing terms what they could do but the boy said, if you have nothing to offer except a good home and clothes and toys like the other kids have, why I would just as soon stay right here. The woman asked, What would you like to have besides these things? I just want someone to love me, replied the boy, and that seems to be the story the world over.

Even this one knew that he could not live by bread alone. cannot

The heart ~~can~~ be ~~satisfied~~ satisfied with gadgets, nicknaks, and jukeboxes, just a little lower than the angels. Our souls can never subsist on the husk of this pleasure-seeking world.

I. Defining this Spiritual Appetite.

I should like for us to think about this hungering ~~xxx~~ on the basis of appetite. We come to understand this metaphor which

Jesus employs here known as hunger. We know the knowing pain the dizziness, the faint feeling, which come from hunger. Then there is the matter of thirst, we know about that which brings about a dryness and which is also actually normal. David, said,

As the heart panteth after the waterbrook, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. Here is a hungering, a thirsting after righteousness.

The desire of the regenerated soul is not simply toward God, but for righteousness. To be right and to do right, to conform to all things that are outlined by the spirit of God.

It is not enough to be conscious of weakness and ignorance or even to mourn over our sins. True penitence, desires to learn the secret of walking before God in holiness and righteousness all his days.

Our one regret is that our desire many times, our appetite is faint. There is a pain in hunger and nothing is more terrible

than to suffer thirst, bred by the heat. These are natural cravings for food and drink.

Now we want to know how to increase this hunger for God at this thirst, this appetite which we are talking about. And we

come to try to define this ~~xxx~~ spiritual appetite. What is it

like? What ~~is it~~ does it tell us? First, it tells us that there is life where there is hunger. Dead men do not need

food. Dead men do not crave water. For example, Pharaoh, his lack of spiritual earnestly

meant that he had hardened his heart, the most dangerous processes that can take place in the human heart is that the sin of hardening the heart and God gave them up. If you have the slightest bit of hunger in your heart for God and righteousness then it is a certain sign that it is not hardened.

Those who have no craving for God, no longing for Christ, no thirst, are dead in trespasses and sins. They are like dead men, you see. So this spiritual appetite may be defined as a sign of life, a man being alive.

The story of a man who almost froze to death in the far north, his hands lost their feeling, his feet became numb, he was overcome with the impulse to lie down in the snow and go to sleep but it dawned upon him that he was freezing to death.

He jumped up, he ran vigorously until circulation was stimulated. Now if this had not happened, if he had not become conscious

In other words this heavenly manna is not pushed off on anyone. So we have the definition of this spiritual appetite.

II. Things that spoil the spiritual appetite.

Well, now there are some things that we can take in and there are some things that we cannot take in. We know that there are some things that will spoil and will not help to satisfy the appetite at all. For example, they tell us that in China and India the natives have fed on a kind of edible earth making it into loaves. It has stayed their cravings but they have grown gradually weaker and weaker till they have lain down to die.

It is very much like the Nordoo plant of Australia, closely resembles a flower, but is lacks any helpful properties and those who feed upon it though insensible of hunger, after a few weeks die of starvation. Thus men who seek after that which is not bread, who refuse God's gift will no doubt feed upon the ashes of life. First, pleasures ruin the appetite for the things of God. Demas hath forsaken me having loved this present world. His appetite for spiritual things were absorbed by sinful things, you see.

The story of the man walking down the road with a pig, following him. A friend asked him how he got the pig to follow him. It is very simple, I drop a bean every few steps and the pig likes beans. He just follows along.

seek thee early, and it goes on to say, Will learn righteousness you see.

You were created in the image and likeness of God, made for fellowship, you see, and your heart is not satisfied, it's normal it is natural, it is constituted that way. It is like iron being attracted to a magnet so there is a hunger in your heart that draws you toward God.

David in the Psalms said, O God Thou art my God, early will I seek thee, my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee, in a dry and thirsty land, Psalm 63:1.

But of course we ~~shall~~ know that if there is pain and suffering and disease that the hunger will disappear and you ~~are~~ no longer desire this and so it was in the Garden of Eden when sin came in we discover that there was a break between their relationship with God.

So in the third place we find the spiritual appetite has pain, it produces pain. If there is a decaying tooth we know there is pain from it and the pain of hunger and thirst are designed to force us to take food. Without this the body would become exhausted and die. So it is in the moral sphere that we cry out to God and seek Him.

In the fourth place it is universal. We have never met a man or woman yet who was incapable of being hungry and thirsty. So there is no soul. Often the spiritual appetite is dormant

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that is, a man may abuse it, you see, or mistreat.

For example as a child may fill up on sweets and kind of
loses his appetite for food or an invalid may stay in bed and
waste away in illness and have very little appetite but at any
moment it may awake, you see,

So the hunger in the soul for God the spiritual appetite
may come as the woman who was a sinner; or the thief on the
cross or Zacheas, the publican.

Now we come to think of the last place about this defining
the spiritual appetite. ~~It~~ Is that its aim is that of righte-
ousness, its righteousness, conforming to God's will, blessed
are the men and women who long more and more than anything else
to be in His will, to be good, in other words. The Highest
aim ~~is~~ is that hunger of the soul which is legitimate. It is
better that we long to be good men and women for what we have
here in this world than just to enjoy a season. You see, every-
thing is built on character. Man's chief sin is to all reasonable
and thoughtful desires to go out on this lower level.

Satan seeks to draw men down but this longing is to be
better tomorrow than we are today. This is a righteousness,
a hunger.

It is really a religious experience, the kind of experience
that produces a righteous life, you see. If it does not pro-
duce that, it ~~is~~ is hardly worth seeking for or hungering

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after. Now this does not come by rites or ceremonies.

Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of
the scribes and the Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter the
Kingdom of Heaven.

It is not in the abstract. Many people condemn sin in
high places but they cannot recognize sin in their own personal
lives. They can condemn sin in the government, society, in
other people, but they condone it in their own hearts, you see

The ~~Bible~~ Bible teaches that the God is holy, righteous,
and pure and He cannot tolerate sin and so sin immediately
breaks fellowship with God and man becomes ~~an~~ unrighteous and
unpure and unholy in the sight of God. Man is called in The
Bible an alien, an enemy, to God, a sinner against God. Many
have tried to reform in order to gain favor with God but you
fall fresh of that, you see.

In spite of all of your moral cleanness God loves you.

Have you ever stopped to think why the cross becomes the symbol
the Christianity? It is because of the cross Jesus purchased
our redemption and He provided a righteousness which we cannot
earn. God forgives all the past. And God says, I will forgive

you but I will forgive you only at the foot of the cross, he
says and then He says, I will fellowship with you, but I'll only
fellowship with you at the foot of the cross. I will give you
this righteous only through the cross, you see.

is true spiritually. If you will exercise yourself, you will discover that this will help your appetite. There are many tonics for spiritual appetite. What will help you live a holy life. For example, the kind of reading material that you read. This will help you to exercise your soul.

Get up into the mountains. That is, climb up where the pines grow tall and where you just barely hear the sounds of the valley. Go up with Christ in the mountains apart to pray and this will give you some sense of how this appetite can be weaned and increased. The artist is not satisfied but he likes to present masterpieces. So the hope of the soul ought to be satisfied with that which is beneath but we should fix our eyes upon this righteousness which God is talking about. Hudson Taylor said that he had been forty years in China. He said that he had been able to do very little there but he says I have learned to live alone with God to know God himself to know that His heart is love. A Christian worker gave a tract to a fashionable lady in a restaurant. She didn't know whether she would receive it or not. And said May I give you this little booklet to read? The strange lady took and read it a few minutes and then she said, This is what I need, just what I have been looking for. Thank you so much. Yet this is the universal, everybody is looking for something. everybody

Second, self-sufficiency. This too can damage your hunger for God. No man is so empty as the man who thinks that he is full. This kind of illness is a fatal disease. No man is so poor as when he believes that he is rich. You know, there was a church that said, she was rich and had everything and Jesus said, why you are just poor. So we see here that we must beware of other foods that we take. Children are unable to take the meal has provided. She suspects that they have visited the candy shop on the way home. May it not ever be that we lose our eager taste for God's word the feasting upon His Word. Third, secret sins. This will take away the appetite.

Secret sins you commit cost the price. You have that resentment that feeling in heart that that which you have against your neighbor or you do not give your heart is filled with some wickedness, there is no room for God. The jealousies, the envies, the prejudices, the malacies, you see.

Fourth, the neglect of your spiritual life. This will take away your appetite for the righteousness of God. All Christians no doubt believe in God but they have little time for God which. We are too busy in the everyday affairs of life to take time out to read and to pray. If you ask a lot of people if they are Christians, they will tell you, I think so, or I hope so. They have little time

for God. They have crowded Him out, and they have neglected their souls, you see. This hunger has kind of been quibbled and they are not hungering after this righteousness. They need to say like Peter, Master, save me or I perish.

The prodigal son you see, spoiled his hunger when he went off with the Devil's crowd to a far city but finally there was something in his heart that hungered after righteousness and he said, I'm going to leave this kind of life, I'm going back to my father, and the whole key to the situation was, you see, was of getting right with God and when he got right with God the Father said, All things are yours now.

III. Nurturing the Spiritual Life.

Now we need to come to think about how we are going to stimulate this appetite, where are we going to begin. First, we must have a change of heart and mind and turn back and receive Christ Jesus.

Now this is more than just to believe something. You may believe in a railroad train that it will do certain things, but you may have a ticket and you may stand there and watch it go off, but you have to get on board if you are going to take the trip if you are going with it and so you may believe a lot about the Bible and about Christ and about the church but you have to receive it you see. You have to get on board. And you have to trust it which believing that it will do it.

Another things, there must be victory in your present life. You must allow the Holy Spirit to bring sanctification in your soul. It means actually to be separated to be clean, the Holy Spirit in your heart helping you and perging you that you will not stop growing but there will be victories in your life and you will continue to grow as a Christian.

You remember Paul said that there were things that he did that he did not want to do, there were some things that he ought to do that he just didn't do and he settled it all when he said, Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? Now the answer to that was this, I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see, Christ, can be your deliverer and why do you do the things that you do as a Christian? And why do you leave the things undone as a Christian? Why do you live in defeat, why do you have unclean hands and lips and an unclean heart. You claim to be a Christian, you claim to be a member of the body of Christ but all of these things are being quenched you see, you are not nourishing them.

The great secret to victorious living is to surrender, you see. And that means that you are going to surrender your life your sins, everything about you to God.

Another thing, you need to do is to take some exercise. You see the more exercise we take the long walks, the playing of the sports, it will cause one to desire to eat and so this

is searching and longing in their hearts. Augustine once said 'Thou madest us for thy self and our heart is restless until it rests in Thee.' So we hunger and thirst for this righteousness.

But when we climb the mountain as Stewart Hamblin, Hollywood best known sportsman and radio star who went to the meeting to scoff and was under the conviction of God's spirit, at four o'clock in the morning the next mornign, he accepted Christ in his hotel room and he told that afternoon his audience, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour this morning, October 18 at 4:30 and I am selling my entire racing stable. Well there was a hunger in him and in his heart and since that time he has been talking for Christ.

Louis Pastuer was bending over his microscope when a student came to his room. The young man did not see the microscope though the great scientist was bowed in prayer. He started to tiptoe from the room. Pastuer raised his head, Excuse me sir, the student stammered, I thought you were praying. I was said the professor, he was searching out the ways of God.

IV. Certain gratifications promised.

There is an old proverb that God never sends mouths but what he sends food to fill them. Whatever you and I have longed for in our best and holiest moments, God will supply. God has prepared a perfect satisfaction. No hunger without food.

God will supply your hunger and thirst. He will satisfy the hunger and thirst of your heart. He will give you the knowledge of His love and His grace. He will give you the joy of His presence and the peace of His kingdom. He will give you the power of His Holy Spirit and the wisdom of His Word. He will give you the life of His Son and the glory of His Father. He will give you the inheritance of His Kingdom and the eternal life of His Kingdom. He will give you the joy of His presence and the peace of His kingdom. He will give you the power of His Holy Spirit and the wisdom of His Word. He will give you the life of His Son and the glory of His Father. He will give you the inheritance of His Kingdom and the eternal life of His Kingdom.

Oct 17 7:30 P.M.
So. Day - March 13 60 A.M.

There is no wings without air to match it. For the baby who cries there is the mother to love. There is no hungering and thirsting after righteousness of God without God ready to match it.

God sends this bread to us. Jesus said, I am the bread of Life. Christ is made out of righteousness.

Are you filled? Do you know what it is to be satisfied? Have you ever been filled? Do you know that the disciples were complete in Him? God will supply all your needs out of His riches in glory.

They shall be filled. This is a promise. Their's is the Kingdom of Heaven. They shall be comforted, they shall inherit the earth.

They tell us that the Siberian prisoners sometimes breaks their chains and escape for some distance, but they are only brought back and shut up into captivity. You see we think about our bondage and these things and then we look to God and He breaks them for us.

What our text literally means is that you will be filled as I fed, as fattened cattle, Mark 6:39 from green grass.

Do you hunger for such a walk? You can have this kind of life now if you are willing to pay the price and complete the surrender. First remember that the Christian life is lived by Christ being in you.

If this is your hunger and desire then God will do exactly what He has promised. He will fill you. Every promise that God has ever made, He has kept.

God will fill you with righteousness. These holy longings that you have God will bless.

Manx hungers for food, God sends the sunshine upon the fields and it produces the grain.

Man hunger for love and God sends that fire of affections of another heart and they two are bound together in matrimony.

Man hungers for knowledge and God raises up institutions of learning.

Man hungers for fellowship and God works through His wonders to provide it.

Now if God has provided all these wonderful things and the material world, surely He will not let you starve spiritually. Isaiah 55:2 for He tells us that the bread of God is He which comes down from Heaven and giveth life unto the world. John 6:33.

God will satisfy the hunger and thirst and your desire for righteousness. He will move heaven and earth to redeem a parent will not let the child starve for love but my God shall supply all your needs. This is a promise that is in your heart, that God is responsible to fulfill it.